US Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District Operations and Maintenance Dredging Program 2013-2015

June 4, 2015

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT AND PROGRAM

- Commission's federal authority, Permits are a state function

- Includes Commission's laws, enforceable policies and regulations

- Federal activities must be consistent to the maximum extent practicable – meaning fully consistent unless federal law prevents full consistency

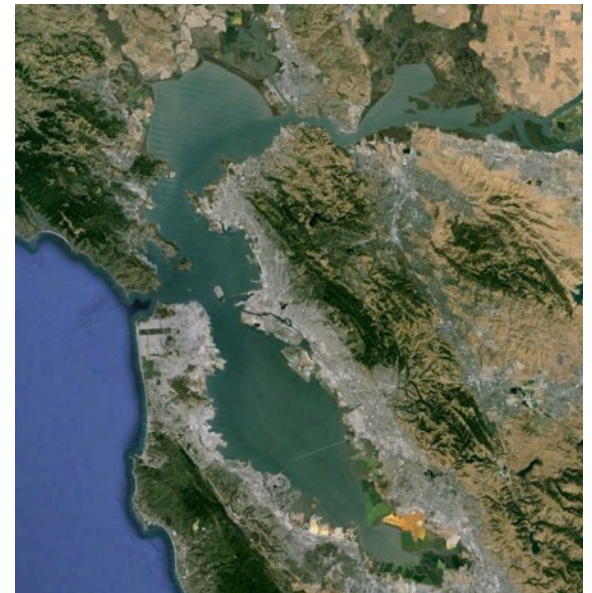# PROJECT CONTEXT

Goals for Today:

- Ensure safe navigation

- LTMS Program Implementation

- Habitat and Species Protection

USACE's Federal Standard – least cost environmentally acceptable alternative.
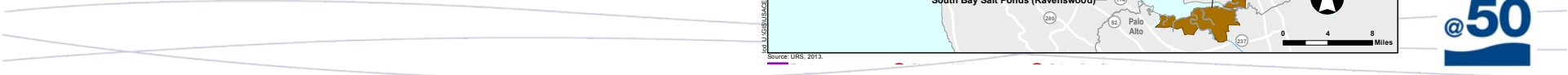
Applicable San Francisco Bay Plan Policies

- Fish, Other Aquatic Organisms and Wildlife;

- Water Quality;

- Subtidal Areas;

- Dredging;

- Mitigation;

- Public Trust; and
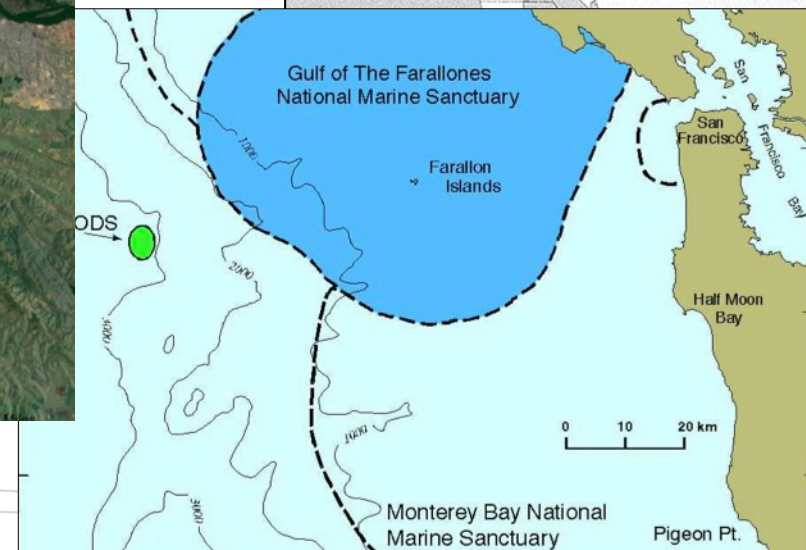
- Navigational Safety and Oil Spill Prevention
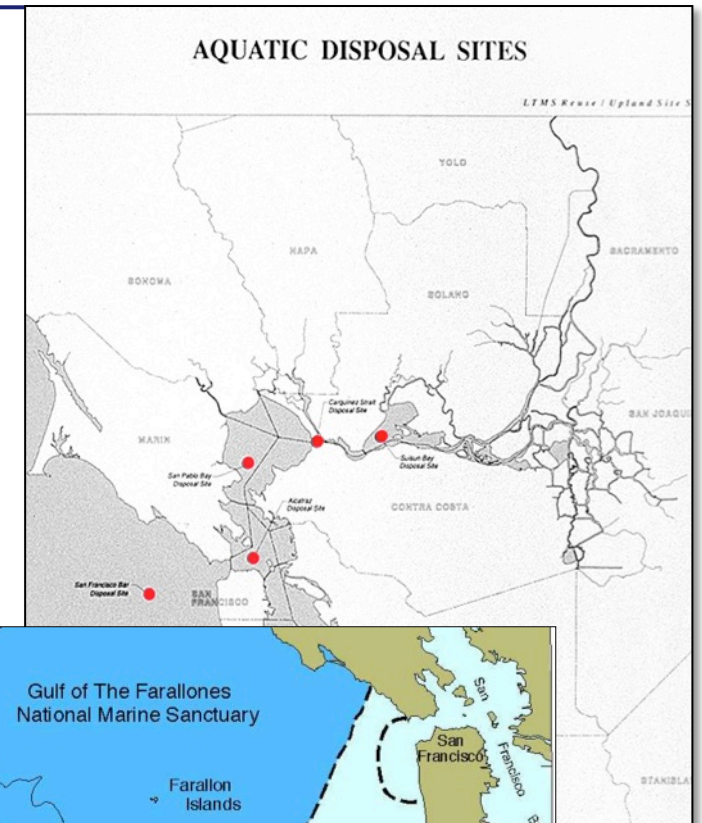

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Proposed Project

- Dredge 6 Federal Deep Water Channels over 3 years:
  - Oakland Entrance, Outer and Inner Harbor
  - Richmond Inner Harbor
  - Richmond Outer Harbor
  - Pinole Shoal
  - Suisun Bay
  - Redwood City

DISPOSAL OR REUSE OF DREDGED SEDIMENT

- In-Bay 45-47%

- Ocean Disposal 55-53%

- Beneficial Reuse - if feasible

Proposed Equipment Types

- Mechanical: Clamshell or excavator bucket
- Hydraulic: Hopper dredge or cutterhead

Protection of Bay Species

- Entrainment and loss of habitat
    - ✓ Equipment Use Limitations
    - ✓ Seasonal Limitations
    - ✓ Minimization Measures
    - ✓ Monitoring
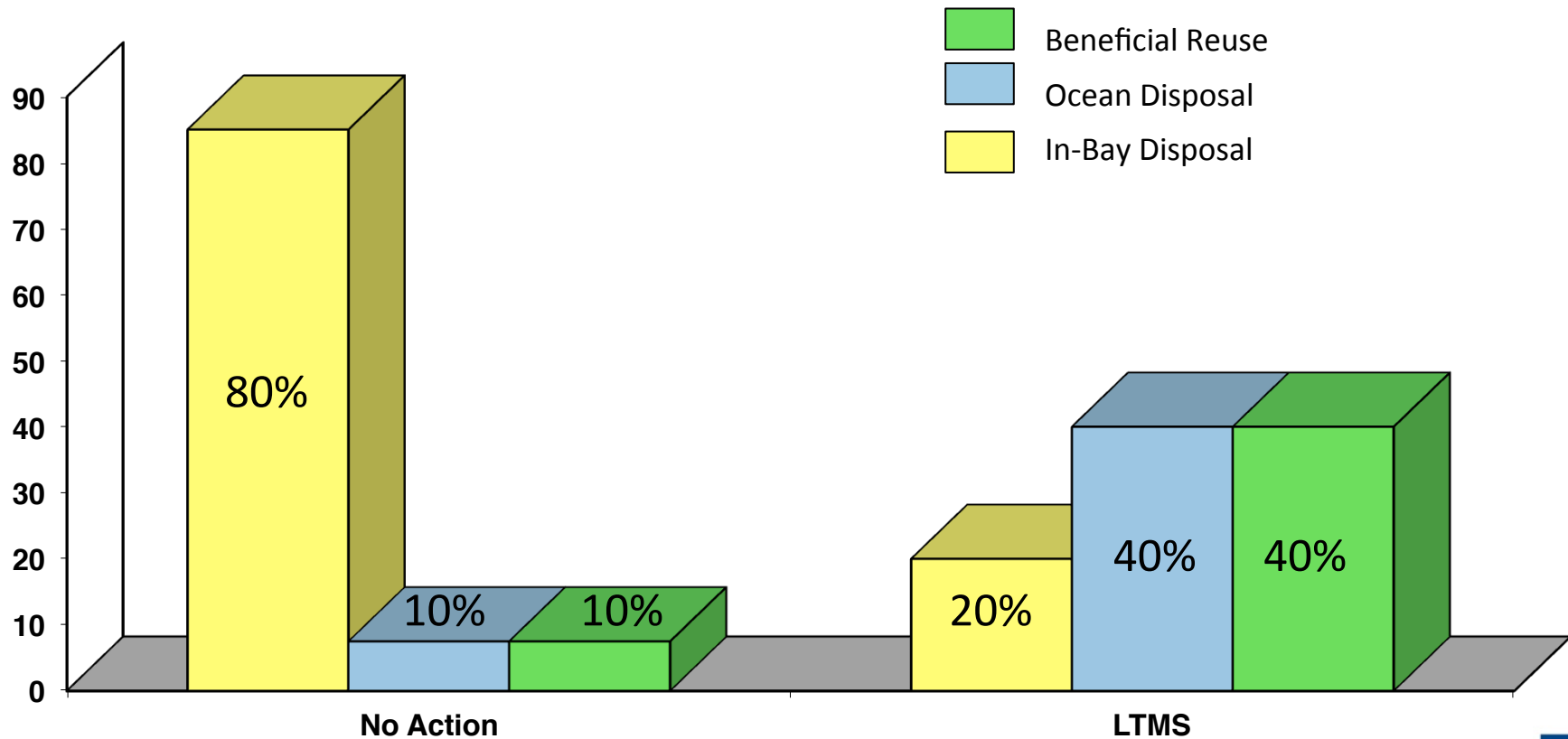   - ✓ Mitigation for Entrainment

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LTMS Goals

- Maintain in an economically and environmentally sound manner those channels necessary for navigation in San Francisco Bay and Estuary and eliminate unnecessary dredging activities in the Bay and Estuary;

- Conduct dredged material disposal in the most environmentally sound manner;

- Maximize the use of dredged material as a resource; and

- Establish a cooperative permitting framework for dredging and dredged material disposal applications.
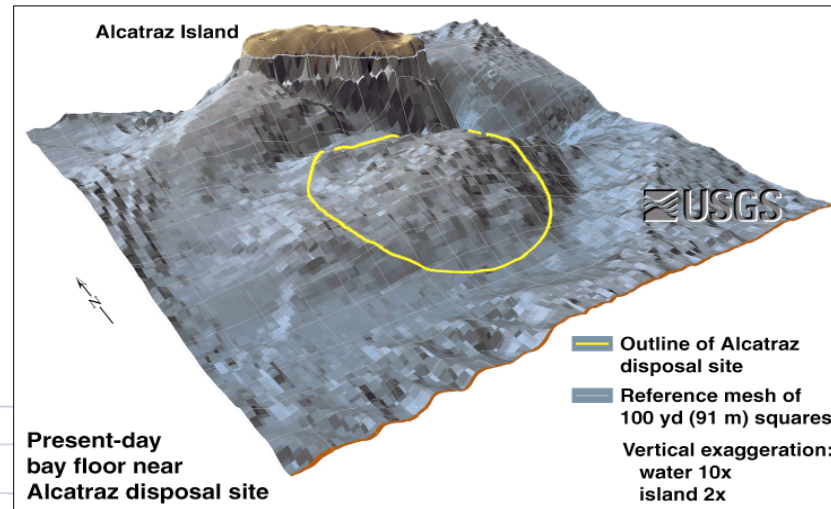
In-Bay Disposal Volume Limits

In-Bay: 1.25 mcy annually (3 year averaged)

IN-BAY DISPOSAL VOLUME LIMITS

- Individual site specific limits – monthly and annual
- Annual Limits – averaged over three years
  - ✓ Limit annual volumes
  - ✓ Manage individual disposal volumes
  - ✓ Request additional funding for FY 2017
  - ✓ Reduce in-bay disposal to LTMS goal by 2017
  - ✓ Increase beneficial reuse by 2017

Alcatraz Island

≋ USGS

Outline of Alcatraz disposal site

Reference mesh of 100 yd (91 m) squares

Vertical exaggeration:
water 10x
island 2x

Present-day bay floor near Alcatraz disposal site

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REQUESTING FEDERAL FUNDS

- Implementing the conditions will like require additional funds beyond those in the current budget cycle

- 2017 funding requests are currently in development

- Concerns raised regarding state or federal authority of the Commission's action

  - ✓ USACE committed to working through appropriate process

  - ✓ Condition requires proactive participation in process and report outs on progress

CZMA Elevation Process

- Commission can recommend approval or objection to the CN based on consistency with the Coastal Zone Management Program

- The USACE can agree with the conditions or disagree

- If it disagrees, it can proceed with dredging, or defer projects and elevate the decision.

  ➢ If disagrees, a full explanation of legal requirements that prevent consistency, and maximum practicable compliance

- Commission can elevate the project to Department of Commerce for consideration

- Commission can sue the USACE for violation of CZMA

ON THE WATER EFFECTS

- If USACE defers dredging while elevation process is underway:
  - ➢ All or some channels may not be dredged
  - ➢ Sedimentation would continue to occur, but at an unknown rate
  - ➢ When shoaling becomes significant, the Bar Pilots would institute draft restrictions on vessels
  - ➢ Vessels would "lighter" and leave cargo at point of origin or offload some or all at other Ports
  - ➢ Over time, federal channels may become impassible, but that would likely be a distant future, given the low sediment deposition in recent years

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Questions?